

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, PINT, WB, GE

SUBJ: WEST BERLIN REACTION TO SED PARTY PROGRAM:

GDR REACTION TO SCHUETZ STATEMENTS

REF: BERLIN 5083

1. REACTION TO RECENTLY PUBLISHED PROGRAM OF SED IN WEST BERLIN HAS BEEN MINIMAL. MEDIA COMMENTATORS NOTED EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN DEVELOPING TIES WITHH WEST BERLIN (WITH THIRD STATE IMPLICATIONS) AND REFERENCE TO "STRICT APPLICATION" OF QA (BUT NOT FULL IMPLEMENTATION). SOME SAW THIS AS EVIDENCE THAT GDR POLICY TO ISOLATE WEST BERLIN FROM FRG WAS BEING INTENSIFIED.

2. BERLIN OFFICIALS CONTACTED BY MISOFF PROFESSED TO SEE LITTLE NEW IN SED PROGRAM AS FAR AS WEST BERLIN WAS CONCERNED. CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ NOTED THAT
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SECTION ON WEST BERLIN PARALLELED REFERENCE IN

GDR-SOVIET TREATY TO "INTENSIFICATION OF TIES" AND SAID THIS WAS TO BE EXPECTED. HE SURMISED THAT GDR WOULD CONTINUE EFFORTS TO POLITICIZE TO EXTEND POSSIBLE CONTACTS BETWEEN SENAT AND GDR OFFICIALS. SENATSRAT KUNZE EXPRESSED VIEW TO MISOFF THAT "INTENSIFICATION OF TIES" MEANS FOR GDR EFFORT TO CONCLUDE AS MANY FORMAL AGREEMENTS AS POSSIBLE WITH WSB TO CREATE IMPRESSION OF RECORD OF STATE-TO-STATE NEGOTIATIONS AND PERHAPS IN PROCESS TO CREATE SOME DEGREE OF WSB DEPENDENCE ON GDR. BOTH OFFICIALS MADE CLEAR THEY INTENDED TO COUNTER SUCH GDR EFFORTS.

3. GOVMAYOR SCHUETZ REFERRED OBLIQUELY TO SED PROGRAM IN ANNUAL PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 19. HE STATED: "THE FOUR POWER AGREEMENT BROUGHT TO BERLIN, IN ADDITION TO THE CONSIDERABLE PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENTS, A GAIN IN SECURITY. THIS CONTINUES TO BE THE CASE EVEN WHEN ONE OBSERVES THAT THE SOVIET UNION, AND ITS WILLING PARTNER THE GDR, ATTEMPT NOT INFREQUENTLY TO INTERPRET THE GDR, ATTEMPT NOT INFREQUENTLY TO INTERPRET THIS AGREEMENT UNILATERALLY, AS THEY DID IN THEIR TREATY OF OCTOBER 7, 1975, AND TO DRAW CERTAIN CONCLUSIONS THEREFORM."

4. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND EDITORIAL IN JANUARY 21 EDITION REACTED TO SCHUETZ PRESS CONFERENCE BY SUGGESTING THAT HE REFRAIN FROM "UNFRIENDLY PROPAGANDA" IN INTERESTS OF VISITS AGREEMENT (AS REPORTED SEPTEL, SCHUETZ INDICATED AT PRESS CONFERENCE THAT EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO IMPROVE THAT AGREEMENT).

5. JANUARY 22 BERLIN PRESS CARRIED SHARP REACTION BY FRG, SENAT AND THREE MAJOR BERLIN PARTIES TO NEUES DEUTSCHLAND ATTACK ON SCHUETZ. SENAT SPOKESMAN STRUVE NOTED THAT SED LEADERSHIP HAD NOT ONLY CONTINUED POLICY OF INTIMIDATION BUT CARRIED IT STEP FURTHER; HE ADDED THAT SUCH THREATS WOULD NOT PREVENT SCHUETZ FROM SPEAKING OUT ON ISSUES IN FUTURE.

6. COMMENT: ONE THING LEADERSHIP HAS SUCCEEDED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACCOMPLISHING THROUGH REFERENCES TO WEST BERLIN IN SED PROGRAM, ONE-SIDED INTERPRETATIONS OF QA, ATTACKS ON SCHUETZ AND THREATS TO FUTURE OF VISITS AGREEMENT IS TO MAKE GOVERNMENT AND POPULACE OF WEST BERLIN EVEN MORE WARY OF GDR MOTIVES. IN FUTURE, EAST GERMANS MAY FIND IT HARDER, NOT EASIER, TO "INTENSIFY RELATIONS WITH WEST BERLIN," AS LOCAL LEVEL OF MISTRUST AGAINST GDR REMAINS HIGH.GEORGE

NOTE BY OC/T: REFTEL APPARENTLY INCORRECT.

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